

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENV'L QUALITY
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 25 House Office Building
January 26, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chair
Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-Chair
Rep. Keith Grover, Vice-Chair
Sen. Casey Anderson
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Brad J. Galvez
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Lee Perry
Rep. Dixon M. Pitcher
Rep. Stephen E. Sandstrom
Rep. Christine Watkins

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Margaret Dayton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell

STAFF: Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Angela Oh, Economist
Ms. Linda Service, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Co-Chair Mathis called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. There were no minutes to approve.

2. DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Analyst Presentation

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, reviewed the Budget Brief, "Division of Wildlife Resources, Operations." The Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) manages all fish and wildlife species, regulates hunting, fishing and trapping, and conducts non-consumptive activities. Mr. Djambov focused on a recommendation for big game depredation cost increases. DWR has reported that in the past four years, big game depredation claims have exceeded the \$500,000 appropriation provided through legislative intent language. As the claims for big game depredation continue to increase, the Legislature would need to consider whether to increase the amount available for depredation or to maintain the current cap of \$500,000. The Analyst briefly commented on the Issue Brief, "Wildlife Resources Fees."

Mr. Djambov presented a brief overview of the Budget Briefs, "Wildlife Resources Capital," "Wildlife License Reimbursement," "Wildlife Predator Control," "Wildlife Cooperative Studies," and "Wildlife Contributed Research." He then responded to questions from subcommittee members.

Agency Presentation

Mr. Jim Karpowitz, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, reviewed a slide presentation. The mission of the division is to serve the people of Utah as the trustee and guardian of the state's wildlife. The charge from the Legislature is to protect, propagate, manage, conserve, and distribute protected wildlife throughout the state. Mr. Karpowitz focused on significant accomplishments, budget challenges, building block requests, and challenges and priorities and then responded to questions from members of the subcommittee.

3. DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE, AND STATE LANDS

Analyst Presentation

Mr. Djambov, discussed the Issue Brief, "Forestry, Fire and State Lands." The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands manages the state's sovereign lands and provides forestry conservation and fire control activities on non-federal forest, range, and watershed lands. He addressed the following building block requests which are proposed to be funded with restricted funds from the Sovereign Lands Management Account: Information Database, \$110,000; Jordan River Management Plan, \$50,000; and Fire Management Officer, \$85,000. The Analyst indicated there are minimal changes in the Issue Brief, "Forestry, Fire, and State Lands Fees."

Agency Presentation

Mr. Dick Buhler, Director and State Forester, assisted by Roger Lewis, Finance Director, discussed handouts outlining "Forestry Programs," "Fire Management," and "Sovereign and State Lands Management." The mission of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands is to manage, sustain, and strengthen Utah forests, rangelands, sovereign lands, and watersheds for its citizens and visitors. He responded to questions and concerns of subcommittee members.

4. DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

Analyst Presentation

Mr. Djambov presented the Budget Brief, "Division of Water Rights." The Division of Water Rights is responsible for the measurement, appropriation, apportionment, and distribution of water in Utah. The State Engineer and his staff oversee dam safety, stream channel alterations and water well drilling. The Analyst recommended two items of intent language: (1) non-lapsing intent language totaling \$350,000 to be able to transfer to the next year, and (2) renew the requirement to study water rights and report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on or before the October 2012 meeting. He commented on the Issue Brief, "Water Rights Fees" for clarification purposes and responded to questions from the subcommittee members.

Agency Presentation

Mr. Kent Jones, State Engineer and Director, was assisted by Mr. Boyd Clayton, Deputy State Engineer, and Mr. Dennis Carroll, Chief Financial Officer. Water Rights puts use of water in the hands of people. The mission of the Division of Water Rights is to promote order, certainty, and safety in the beneficial use of Utah's water. Mr. Jones discussed the handout which details charts, activities, and issues and challenges facing the division. Mr. Jones replied to questions from the subcommittee members.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Angela Oh, Economist, presented a brief synopsis of the handout, "Comparison of FY 2013 Base Budget to FY 2012 Estimated Budget" with a suggestion to subcommittee members to contact her office for further clarification if needed.

MOTION: Rep. Duckworth moved to adjourn the meeting. Co-chair Mathis adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Sen. David Hinkins, Co-chair

Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-chair